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(Washington, D.C.) - Late on Monday night, the U.S. House of Representatives passed an omnibus budget bill that included millions in funding for several Del Rio area projects requested by Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez. In total, over \$9 million were approved for Del Rio area infrastructure, education and military construction projects. "As Del Rio's representative on the House Appropriations Committee, securing funding to support Laughlin Air Force Base, to improve the local infrastructure and to address education needs is among my top priorities," said Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez.

The House approved \$5.2 million for construction of a new student activity center and library at Laughlin Air Force Base. While the construction project had not yet been scheduled for funding by the Department of Defense, Congressman Rodriguez worked with the House Appropriations Committee to expedite the project and secure construction funding this year.

"We want to thank Congressman Rodriguez for representing our community and helping secure funds for our city, county and Laughlin AFB. We are indebted to him for his hard work and efforts," said Alfredo R. Delgado, President of the Del Rio Chamber of Commerce. "We would also like to thank Ciro for visiting our community as often as he does. His presence and this funding is a major plus for the city of Del Rio."

Joel Martinez, Director of the Joint Land Use Study and the City of Del Rio Airport Director added, "The 5.2 million for Laughlin AFB makes clear the continuous commitment that our community has to Laughlin, as well as Congressman Rodriguez' efforts to ensure the success of Laughlin AFB's mission."

In addition, the bill included \$1 million for roadway construction in Del Rio, specifically to complete a two-lane paved road connecting Highway 90 to Amistad Lake, including a National Parks Service (NPS) boat ramp and a Homeland Security (DHS) boat ramp at Box Canyon; \$600,000 for a pre-disaster mitigation project in Del Rio, to include a study of potential flooding related drainage problems and for development of flood prioritization criteria; and \$2,500,000 was also included in the bill for operation, maintenance, and emergency costs for hydroelectric facilities at the Amistad Dam and Falcon Dam.

"Congressman Rodriguez has been great for our community. We are excited to see funding being directed towards county and city projects as well as to Laughlin AFB. We appreciate him taking time to meet with us in Washington, DC and on his many visits to the community. Ciro has listened to our concerns and has come through like a champ," said County Commissioner Ramiro Ramon.

In addition, the bill included \$95,000 for Del Rio-Eagle Pass service area AVANCE

Parent-Child Education Program, an intervention preventative model for at-risk families with children under the age of four. It is a two-generational approach focused on the family and centered on the children by creating a cognitively enriching environment

"We are very excited with the news of this appropriation," stated Teresa Sanchez, Executive Director of the AVANCE Middle Rio Grande region. "These monies will allow AVANCE to continue to serve families through the Parent/Child Education Program. They are an investment in the young children and families in the Del Rio/Eagle Pass area who otherwise have tremendous barriers in achieving a successful educational experience."

The omnibus appropriations bill also included \$658,000 to build a border law enforcement training center in Eagle Pass, providing a regional, nation, and international public safety training for law enforcement to address homeland security national preparedness goals.

The bill must next be approved by the Senate and then sent to the President for his approval.

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